WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Are the gobs of money golf courses are throwing into their maintenance budgets today really worth it? Maybe not, according to Ken Giedd, director of course maintenance at the 63-hole Kingsmill Resort here.

"Grooming standards have increased to the point where it seems many of the things superintendents do are simply a way to keep up with the Joneses [competition]," Giedd said. "But I think we're close to the point of diminishing returns. Superintendents do a lot of stuff to satisfy the owner or greens committee. I'm not sure golfers really see much of it.

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